Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2001 TO FEBRUARY 23 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	January 166.3	-0.4%	6.1%	Reflecting the slowdown of the Canadian economy, the Composite Leading index declined by 0.4% in January. Five of the ten components declined, with the largest decreases recorded in the stock market (3.9%), average work-week hours in manufacturing (-0.5), and the US composite leading indicator (-0.3). The largest gains were in housing index (3.5%), furniture and appliance sales (0.5%), and business and personal services employment (0.4%). The Canadian Composite Index would have increased by 0.1% if the sharp declines in the stock market and the US leading indicator were excluded.
Retail Sales ($millions)	December			For 2000 as a whole, Canada retail sales increased by 6.3% - the third largest increase over the last decade. The largest gain was recorded in Alberta (8.9%). In December, Canadian retail sales increased by 0.9% from the previous month, led by strong expenditures in food and general merchandise sectors. On a month to month basis strongest increases were observed in Prince Edward Island (2.2%) and Quebec (2.1%). Conversely, Newfoundland (-1.1%) and New Brunswick (-0.5%) experienced decline in retail sales.
Alberta	2,734	0.4%	4.6%	
Canada	23,662	0.9%	3.5%	
Wholesale Trade ($millions)	December			For 2000 as a whole, all provinces recorded an increase in wholesale sales. In December, declines in apparel and dry goods (-3.7%), lumber and building materials (-3.4%), and farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-3.4%) have pulled down national sales. The largest declines were recorded in New Brunswick (-2.4%) and Prince Edward Island (-2.0%). Manitoba (4.3%), and Ontario (0.6%) bucked the national trend.
Alberta	3,066	-1.1%	2.8%	
Canada	31,657	-0.1%	1.7%	